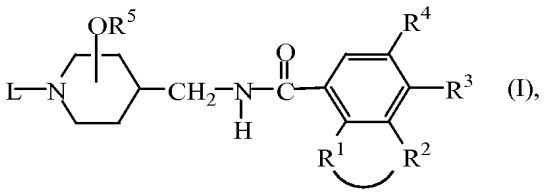
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A compound of formula (I)



(I),

a stereochemically isomeric form thereof, an *N*-oxide form thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base addition salt thereof, wherein

$-R^1-R^2-$ is a bivalent radical of formula

$-O-CH_2-O-$ (a-1),
$-O-CH_2-CH_2-$ (a-2),
$-O-CH_2-CH_2-O-$ (a-3),
$-O-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-$ (a-4),
$-O-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-O-$ (a-5),
$-O-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-$ (a-6),
$-O-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-O-$ (a-7),
$-O-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-$ (a-8),

wherein in said bivalent radicals optionally one or two hydrogen atoms on the same or a different carbon atom may be replaced by C_{1-6}alkyl or hydroxy,

R^3 is hydrogen, halo, C_{1-6}alkyl or C_{1-6}alkyloxy;

R^4 is hydrogen, halo, C_{1-6}alkyl; C_{1-6}alkyl substituted with cyano, or C_{1-6}alkyloxy; C_{1-6}alkyloxy; cyano; amino or mono or di(C_{1-6}alkyl)amino;

R^5 is hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl, and the $-OR^5$ radical is situated at the 3- or 4-position of the piperidine moiety;

L is a radical of formula

-Alk-R^6 (b-1),
-Alk-X-R^7 (b-2),
-Alk-Y-C(=O)-R^9 (b-3),

wherein each Alk is C_{1-12}alkanediyl; and

R^6 is aryl;

R^7 is aryl;

X is O, S, SO_2 or NR^8; said R^8 being hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl;

R^9 is aryl;

Y is a direct bond, O, S, or NR^{10} wherein R^{10} is hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl; and

aryl represents phenyl substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents each independently selected from hydroxycarbonyl.

2. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein the $-OR^5$ radical is situated at the 3-position of the piperidine moiety having the trans configuration.

3. (Currently Amended) The [[A]]compound as claimed in claim 2 wherein the absolute configuration of said piperidine moiety is (3S, 4S).

4. (Currently Amended) The [[A]]compound as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ wherein L is a radical of formula (b-2) wherein Alk is C_{1-4}alkanediyl, and R^7 is aryl wherein aryl is phenyl substituted with hydroxycarbonyl.

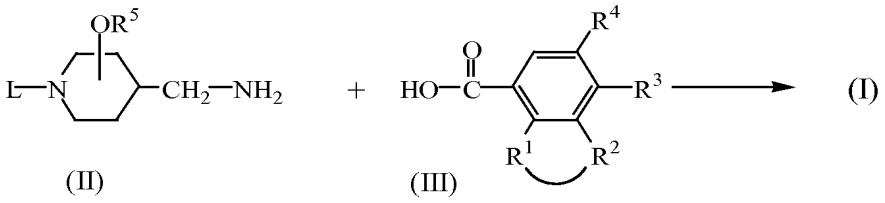
5. (Currently Amended) The [[A]]compound as claimed in claim 4 wherein Alk is 1,3-propanediyl or 1,4-butanediyl.

6. (Currently Amended) The [[A]]compound as claimed in claim 5 wherein R^7 is aryl wherein aryl is phenyl substituted with hydroxycarbonyl situated at the 3- or 4-position of the phenyl moiety.

7. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a therapeutically active amount of a compound according to claim 1~~any of claims 1 to 6~~.

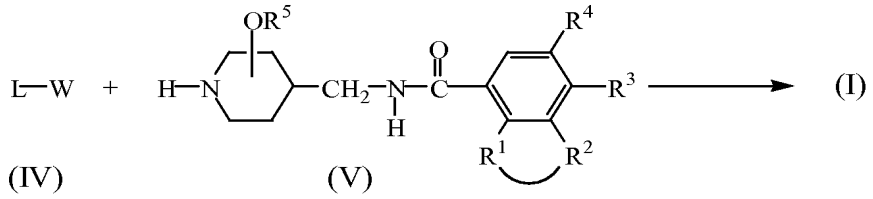
8. (Canceled)
9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) A process for preparing a compound of formula (I) wherein
    a) an intermediate of formula (II) is reacted with an carboxylic acid derivative of formula (III) or a reactive functional derivative thereof;



(II) (III)

b) an intermediate of formula (IV) is *N*-alkylated with an intermediate of formula (V), in a reaction-inert solvent and, optionally in the presence of a suitable base;



wherein in the above reaction schemes the radicals -R^1-R^2-, R^3, R^4, R^5, and L are as defined in claim 1 and W is an appropriate leaving group;

c) or, compounds of formula (I) are converted into each other following art-known transformation reactions; or if desired; a compound of formula (I) is converted into a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt, or conversely, an acid addition salt of a compound of formula (I) is converted into a free base form with alkali; and, if desired, preparing stereochemically isomeric forms thereof.

11. (New) A method for the treatment of $5HT_4$ related disorders comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

12. (New) A method for treating patients suffering from gastrointestinal conditions comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

13. (New) A method for treating hypermotility, irritable bowel syndrome, constipation or diarrhea predominant IDS, pain and non-pain predominant IBS and bowel hypersensitivity comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.